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FEBRUARY 15, 2021 BY RONNIE

Digital Citizen Contribution Program: “Pandemic Bucks” To Fight Misinformation

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Digital Citizen Contribution Program
From: Canadian Heritage
The Digital Citizen Contribution Program supports the priorities of the Digital Citizen Initiative by providing time-limited financial assistance for research and citizen-focused activities. The Program aims to support democracy and social cohesion in Canada by enhancing and/or supporting efforts to counter online disinformation and other online harms and threats.
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Guide on the public acknowledgement of financial support – Canadian Heritage
Service standards for Canadian Heritage funding programs

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY - INTERNATIONAL CYBERCRIME RESEARCH CENTRE (Academia)

$96,600.00
Oct. 1, 2020

Agreement: Deploying Artificial Intelligence to Combat **Covid** - **19 Disinformation** on Social Media (1335931) (Oct. 1, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021)

Description:

Digital Citizen Contribution Program

Expected Results:

1. Canadians awareness of digital media literacy is increased through events and products.
2. Researchers are better connected and have access to information on how online disinformation affects Canadians.
3. Participants are satisfied with citizen focussed activities.
4. Research on online disinformation is made publicly accessible to Canadians and is relevant to government research needs.

Feedback

Nothing screams dystopian nightmare quite like using tax dollars to deploy artificial intelligence to find ways to counter critics of the “pandemic” narrative. It’s not like the AI could be put to good use, or anything like that.

Now, many of these groups aren’t getting money specifically for this, but the same “disinformation” research could still be applied in most cases.

1. How Your Tax Dollars Are Being Used

DIGITAL PUBLIC SQUARE (Not-for-profit organizations and charities) $679,176.00
Mar. 1, 2020
Agreement: Countering **Disinformation** Relating to **COVID** - **19** (1330729)
(Mar. 1, 2020 - Sep. 30, 2020)
Description:
Digital Citizen Contribution Program
Organization: Canadian Heritage
Program Name: Digital Citizen Contribution Program
Location: Toronto , Ontario, Canada

> The Digital Citizen Contribution Program supports the priorities of the Digital Citizen Initiative by providing time-limited financial assistance for research and citizen-focused activities. The Program aims to support democracy and social cohesion in Canada by enhancing and/or supporting efforts to counter online disinformation and other online harms and threats.

The Government is handing out money to certain organizations to promote its version of responsible journalism. What could possibly go wrong with that?

The following organizations are eligible for funding:

- a national, provincial, territorial, municipal, Indigenous, community or professional organization, society or association which has voluntarily associated itself for a not-for-profit purpose, and which has the mandate to represent its membership or community
- a not-for-profit organization, including non-governmental or umbrella organizations, non-profit corporations, community groups, regulatory bodies or apprenticeship authorities, or associations serving the private sector
- a university or educational institution
- an individual researcher, acting in his or her personal capacity
- a research institution with an established record in relevant field(s), intending to undertake work in a Canadian context
- a for-profit Canadian and Canadian-owned institution with a record of developing and delivering programming, and performing research or related activities relevant to the goals of

Canadian Heritage’s Digital Citizen Initiative, provided that the nature and the intent of the activity is non-commercial

Now, who’s getting the money?

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT
Alex Wilner and Casey Babb	Aug. 10, 2020	$9,900
Alperin, Juan P.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000
Asian Environmental Association – HUA Foundation	Apr. 1, 2020	$64,660
BILAL Community & Family Centre	Aug. 15, 2020	$40,000
Calgary Animated Objects Society	Aug. 1, 2020	$40,000
Centre for Democracy and Development	Oct. 22, 2018	$49,420
The Centre For Israel And Jewish Affairs	Sep. 1, 2020	$38,000
Côté, Catherine	Mar. 22, 2020	$8,000
Chun, Wendy H.K.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000
CIVIX	Nov. 15, 2018	$23,000
Colasante, Tyler	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Concordia University	Oct. 1, 2020	$39,270
Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, David Jones	Dec. 17, 2019	$49,916
David Morin, Marie-Ève Carignan	Dec. 4, 2020	$44,838
Digital Public Square	Mar. 1, 2020	$679,176
Evans, Jennifer V.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000
Fleerackers, Alice L.	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Gingras, Marie-Pier	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Grisdale, Sean E.	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Hodson, Jaigris N.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000

Institute For Canadian Citizenship	Mar. 24, 2020	$490,880
Institute For Democracy, Media & Culture	Jul. 27, 2020	$35,750
Institute On Governance	Oct. 1, 2020	$100,000
International Republican Institute	Mar. 15, 2019	$2,973,531
Internews Network	Mar. 19, 2020	$3,172,323
IRIS Communications	Oct. 1, 2020	$99,500
JHR – Journalists for Human Rights	Jun. 1, 2019	$250,691
JHR – Journalists for Human Rights	Jul. 14, 2020	$1,479,856
Ketchum, Alexandra D.	Mar. 22, 2020	$23,455
Kingdom Acts Foundation	Sep. 1, 2020	$70,500
Lavigne, Mathieu	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Lennox, Rebecca	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Macewan University	Nov. 1, 2020	$69,000
Mack, Amy C.	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
Magazines Canada	May 15, 2019	$63,000
Manchester Metropolitan University	Feb. 1, 2020	$214,837
Matthews, Kyle	Apr. 20, 2020	$33,377
McLevey, John V.P.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000
Moisse, Katie	Mar. 22, 2020	$13,417
Nathalie Furrer	Aug. 10, 2020	$10,000
Nelson, Kim A.	Mar. 22, 2020	$24,498
Neubauer, Robert J.	Jan. 1, 2020	$10,000
PeaceGeeks Society	Nov. 11, 2015	$46,200
Pennycook, Gordon R.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000

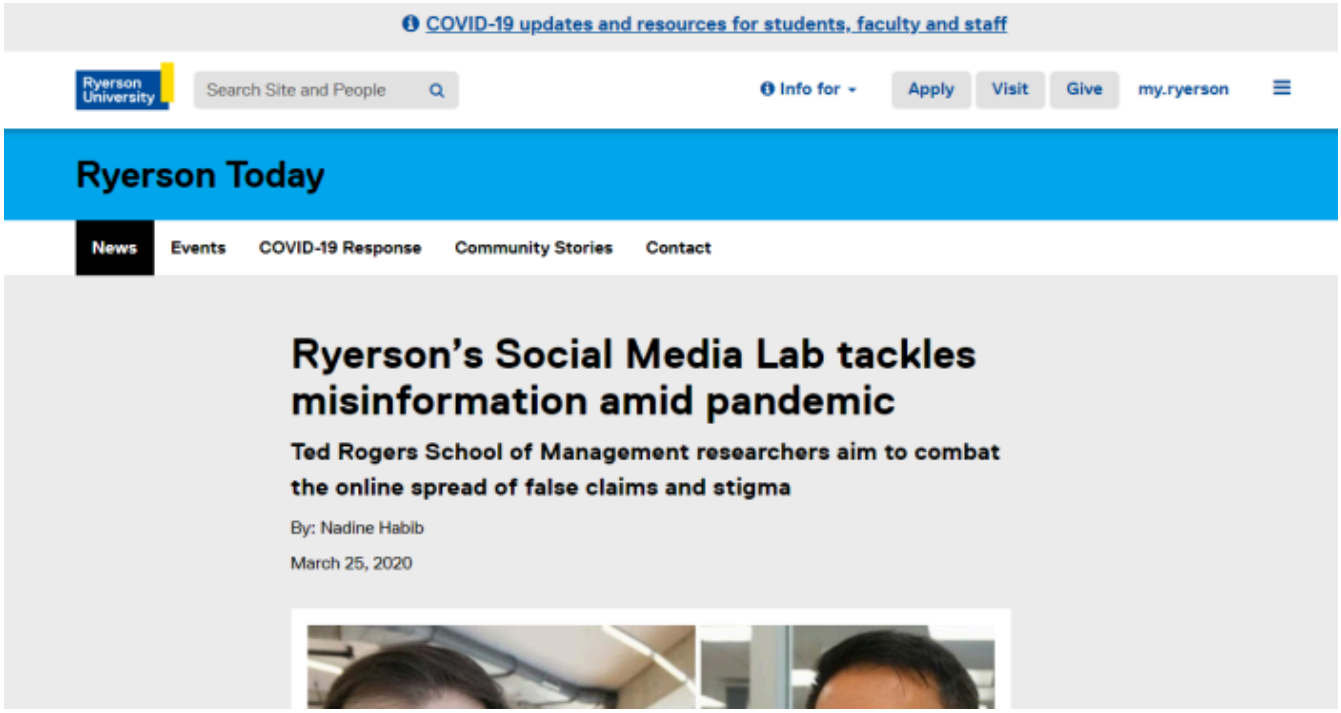
QuantSpark Foundation	Feb. 26, 2020	$1,155,622
Rupantar	Oct. 28, 2018	$24,996
Ruslan Stefanov, Director,	Jul. 3, 2018	$15,000
Ryerson University	Apr. 1, 2019	$290,250
Ryerson University	Jan. 1, 2020	$225,300
Ryerson University	Sep. 18, 2020	$97,407
Science North	Sep. 1, 2020	$40,000
Simon Fraser University	Jan. 19, 2019	$28,750
Simon Fraser University – Int’l Cybercrime Research	Oct. 1, 2020	$96,600
Taylor, Emily	Jan. 1, 2020	$33,250
Trybun	Jan. 21, 2019	$7,114
Young, Hilary A.N.	Apr. 1, 2020	$20,000
York University	Nov. 1, 2020	$99,956

This is what your tax dollars go towards. Check this link for general disinformation grants, this for propaganda, and this one for specific CV-19 disinfo grants. It’s worth pointing out that for much of the research, even though it may not list the “pandemic” specifically, the information learned could still be applied to it. Besides, the dates are pretty suspicious.

As discussed here, some “fact checking” groups like CIVIX and Journalists for Human Rights have extensive political ties, which call into question anything they do produce.

Another updated list is available from Newswire. Nice to see someone else addressing it.

2. Ryerson University’s Social Media Lab



As the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to spread across the world, so too does the flow of information and misinformation related to the virus. In a recent announcement by the Government of Canada, external link, researchers at the Ted Rogers School of Management’s Social Media Lab, in collaboration with researchers at Royal Roads University, received ***funding to examine the spread of digital misinformation related to the coronavirus. The study seeks to mitigate the spread of misinformation, stigma and fear*** through education.

The study, Inoculating Against an Infodemic: Microlearning Interventions to Address CoV Misinformation, will be a ***two-year study that aims to develop online learning interventions to improve people’s knowledge, beliefs and behaviours*** related to COVID-19.

Researchers at the Social Media Lab have already created a portal, external link designed to ***track and combat misinformation related to COVID-19***.

Ryerson University has started a 2 year program designed to track “misinformation” trends, and to look for ways to counter it online. Of course, if it contradicts the official narrative, it must be tracked and countered.

3. Concordia University’s Disinfo Research

Concordia
Future students Student hub Alumni & friends Parents Faculty & staff Media
Events
CALENDAR ACADEMIC DATES UNIVERSITY HOLIDAYS PLANNING & HOSTING
CONFERENCES & LECTURES
Share this event:
COVID-19 disinformation and the future of internet governance
E & TIME
dnesday, January 20, 2021
p.m. – 1 p.m.
Join this digital townhall to learn about COVID-19 disinformation and the future of internet governance and content moderation.

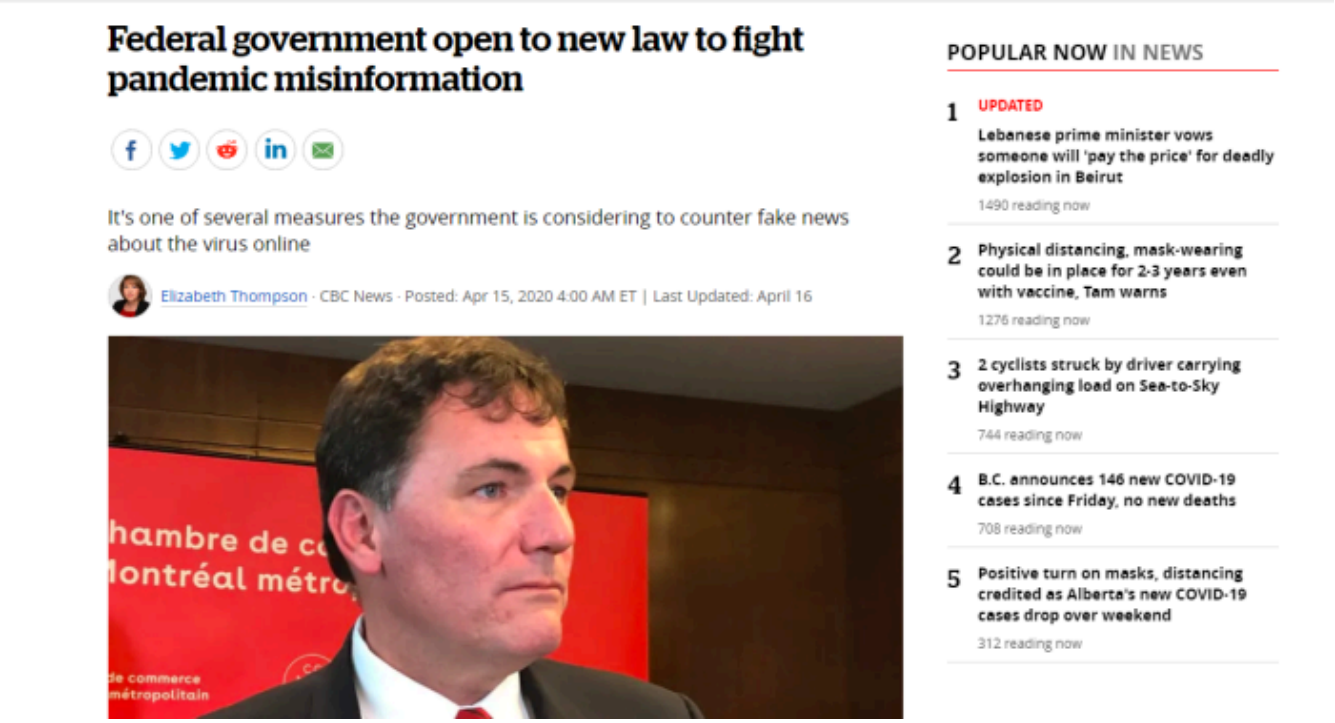
> The event will be livestreamed on the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies’ Facebook and YouTube pages.

> The ***Canadian Coalition to Counter COVID Digital Disinformation is a project organized by the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage’s Digital Citizens Initiative***. The team is working to enhance Canadian citizens’ digital literacy and resiliency as they come in contact with misinformation and disinformation relating to COVID-19.

> As part of this work, a series of digital townhalls will be held on issues like ***foreign interference, conspiracy theories and fake news***. Stay tuned for more events hosted on these topics.

Concordia took nearly $40,000 to undertake this effort in researching and ultimately combating “misinformation”. Note: institutions like this never seem to question whether the narratives they push is itself fake news. It’s comical.

4. Financing Your Own Brainwashing



Federal government open to new law to fight pandemic misinformation

It's one of several measures the government is considering to counter fake news about the virus online

Elizabeth Thompson · CBC News · Posted: Apr 15, 2020 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: April 16

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Not only does the Government donate to newspapers, periodicals, and other media, but it finances research into combatting misinformation. What this (really) means is that finding ways to prevent the truth from coming out.

And if that doesn’t work, Government can just pass laws to ban opinions it doesn’t like. This has been proposed for nearly a year now. Be aware, that if the efforts fail with the various Government programs, it’s possible different views will just be legislated away.

(1) https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/online-disinformation/digital-citizen-contribution-program.html
(2) https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/online-disinformation/digital-citizen-contribution-program.html#a2
(3) https://search.open.canada.ca/en/gc/
(4) https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/ongoing-support-for-research-and-media-literacy-projects-as-canada-continues-to-fight-online-disinformation-816455316.html
(5) https://canucklaw.ca/cv-46-dominic-leblanc-proposes-law-to-ban-misinformation-about-virus/

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One Reply to “Digital Citizen Contribution Program: “Pandemic Bucks” To Fight Misinformation”

Kata List Productions

FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 9:36 AM

Fake news should be called common sense news .. the politicians hate when their covers are blown.. that’s the entire point isn’t it!?